THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : இன்னும் இரண்டு டிபார்ட்மெண்டுகளையும் ஒன்றாக இணைப்பது பற்றி ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வரவில்லை. அதற்குள்ளாக ஒரு சீப் இன்ஜினியரை வைத்துக்கொள்ளுவதா என்ற பிரச்னை எழவில்லை என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

SRI P. T. RAJAN : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give an opportunity to this House to have its say before the Government come to any definite conclusion in the matter?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Certainly, after the Government come to a conclusion, the House will be informed about it. (Laughter.)

SRI P. T. RAJAN : Perhaps I have not made myself clear, Sir. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consult this House before he comes to a conclusion in this matter?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : We cannot consult the House before coming to a decision. We are examining the question departmentally. We will disclose the final decision when it is reached.

Arannmore Palace in Ootacamund

* 32 Q.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Arannmore Palace in Ootacamund has been purchased by the Government;

(b) if so, at what price; and

(c) how it is proposed to be used?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance) : (a) The Government are considering the purchase of the entire Arannmore Palace at Ootacamund.

(b) The matter is still in the stage of negotiation.

(c) The question as to the use to which the building should be put will be considered by the Government after its purchase.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the idea in purchasing the palace is to accommodate the royal personnel and high dignitaries visiting the place?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may assure the hon. Member that it is not at all the idea of the Government that this palace should be purchased by the Government and used as a palace.

3rd March 1958]

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Will the Hon.: Minister be pleased to inform the Education Minister about the desirability of locating the college at present in Stonehouse Hill in more favourable surroundings, if possible, in the Arannmore Palace?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I shall certainly convey this idea of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to the Hon. the Education Minister.

DR. V. K. JOHN : May I know with what object the Government are proposing to acquire this property?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Now and then we have to hold several conferences—All-India conferences and Provincial conferences—and Seminars and there is no suitable accommodation for these purposes. We do need also a Guest House over and above what we have in Ootacamund. Therefore, we thought that the opportunity to purchase this building which could be got for a fairly cheap price should not be missed and that we could put it to useful purposes.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Is there any proposal to have a session of the Legislature at Ootacamund?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no such proposal.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : In the event of our purchasing the palace and if we so desire, will there be enough accommodation to have our sessions there?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Even here a session of the Legislature could be held and this building could accommodate all.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Will it accommodate Ministers and Members of the Legislature visiting Ootacamund?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The Guest House will serve the purpose of accommodating guests.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : At what stage are the negotiations? Has the price been fixed? If not, what are the difficulties standing in the way?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The negotiations are almost over. The title deeds have to be examined and the question of payment, etc., has to be gone into.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : What is the price?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think it is advisable to disclose the price before the deal is finalized.

[3rd March 1958

3-10 p.m. SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : வேனிற் காலத்தில் பல கூட்டங்கள் போடுவதற்கு உதகமண்டலம் தோதாக இருக்கும் என்ற உத்தேசத்தில் அங்கே அந்தக் கட்டிடம் வாங்கப்பட்டதாகக் கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். வேனிற் காலத்தில் சட்ட சபைக் கூட்டத்தையும் அங்கே கூட்டுவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அங்கே சட்ட சபையைக் கூட்டும் விஷயத்தை சட்ட சபை முடிவு செய்ய வேண்டும்.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware that some of his Colleagues have given an indication that the very purpose of purchasing the palace is to have the session of the Legislature at Ootacamund in that very place?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, some of my Colleagues might have given the indication that this building could provide the necessary accommodation for a session of the Legislature. That does not mean that the Government have any proposal to have the next session during the coming summer in Ootacamund.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Did the Government ask the owner of the building to give it as a gift to the public?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Perhaps, Sir, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition may negotiate it for the consideration of the Government.

Coastal road from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin

* 33 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state with reference to the Legislative Council Starred Question No. 127 answered on 24th December 1956—

(*a*) whether the preliminaries in regard to the formation of a coastal road from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin have been completed;

(*b*) if so, when the work will be taken up for execution; and

(*c*) if not, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration) : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The work has been already taken up for execution.

(*c*) Does not arise.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லா வரையில் எந்த எந்தப் பகுதிகளில் இந்த ரோடுகள் போடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்ற விவரத்தை கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தெரிவிக்க முடியுமா?